

Introduction

Reports of tuberculosis (TB) cases are submitted to the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by 60 reporting areas (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, and other jurisdictions in the Pacific and Caribbean). In January 1993, DTBE, in conjunction with state and local health departments, implemented an expanded TB surveillance system. The expanded system collects additional information for each reported TB case in order to better monitor trends in TB, including drug-resistant TB, in the United States. A software package (SURVS -TB) for data entry, analysis, and transmission of case reports to CDC was designed and implemented as part of the expanded TB surveillance system. In 1998, the Tuberculosis Information Management System (TIMS) replaced SURVS-TB in order to provide reporting areas with a comprehensive software for surveillance, patient management, and program evaluation.

This publication, *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 1998*, presents summary data for TB cases reported to DTBE during 1998. It is similar to previous publications (page 5, #19) and contains five major sections. First, overall TB case counts and case rates with selected demographic characteristics are presented for the 50 states, New York City, and the District of Columbia. Second, TB case counts and case rates are presented by state with tables of selected demographic and clinical characteristics. In the third section, data collected as part of the expanded system (e.g., initial drug resistance, HIV status) are presented by reporting area. The fourth section provides TB case counts and case rates by metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs: see Technical Notes for further details) with tables of selected demographic and clinical characteristics. Finally, the fifth section is a collection of figures, including some data not presented in tabular format.

This is the second year several new tables (Tables 10, 11, 26) and figures (Figures 8, 9, 11) have been incorporated. Tables 10 and 11 present the country of origin and the duration of residence in the United States by state, for cases among foreign-born persons. Figures 8 and 9 present the number and percentage of the overall national total, by year, for cases among U.S.-born and foreign-born persons, respectively. Table 26 is the most recent addition to the section presenting data collected as part of the expanded system. This table provides estimates of completion of TB therapy (COT) rates by reporting area (see Technical Notes for further details). Figure 11 presents a U.S. map showing isoniazid resistance among cases without a history of previous TB. In addition, for the second year, Tables 12, 13, and 29 include all military cases under the classification of both pulmonary and extrapulmonary disease rather than the classification of extrapulmonary as was done in annual summaries prior to 1997.

To help interpret the data, an Executive Commentary (page 2) and Technical Notes (page 71) have been included. In addition, the current case definition (*MMWR* 1997;46 [No. RR-10]:40-1) and "Recommendations for Counting Reported Tuberculosis Cases" are provided in the Appendix. The recommendations for counting TB cases, which update the January 1977 recommendations, were first published in *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 1996*.

We will continue to adapt and improve this publication to better monitor trends in TB in the United States. Your comments and suggestions that may assist us in this process will be greatly appreciated.